# Nurturing tomorrow's filmmakers: CMOT brings 100 young creative talents to 57th IFFI

> Sixth edition of the initiative to spotlight 13 filmmaking crafts, 48-hour challenge and Talent Camp to offer hands-on industry exposure

**Goa, 19 November 2026**

Behind every film that reaches the screen is a team of creative minds whose contributions shape its story, sound and visual identity. Recognising the importance of this collective talent, Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT), an initiative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting implemented by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), returns for its sixth edition at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa, with 100 young talents from across India.

The 2026 cohort brings together aspiring professionals from 13 filmmaking crafts, spanning direction, acting, cinematography, editing and subtitling, scriptwriting, playback singing, music composition, sound recording, costume design, hair and makeup, art direction, animation, visual effects (VFX), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and voice-over and dubbing. By bringing together participants from different creative disciplines, the initiative places collaboration at the centre of the filmmaking experience.

The selection process combines perspectives from film education and industry practice. A 13-member Selection Jury comprising faculty members from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) evaluates applications across the respective crafts. The next stage is undertaken by a 12-member Grand Jury of established industry practitioners, which identifies the selected participants. The filmmaking challenge and its final awards are subsequently evaluated by a five-member Great Grand Jury comprising distinguished film professionals.




A key component of the programme is the 48-Hour Filmmaking Challenge, conducted by FTII, Pune, in collaboration with NFDC. Participants from different crafts will work together to conceptualise and produce short films within a 48-hour production window. Supported by expert mentorship and institutional guidance, the challenge offers an intensive practical experience of working as a filmmaking team under professional production constraints. The completed films will be screened specially at IFFI and evaluated by an eminent jury of film industry professionals, with awards recognising excellence across categories.

The CMOT Talent Camp will further connect participants with the wider media and entertainment industry, bringing them in contact with production houses, studios, music labels, OTT platforms, broadcasters and other industry stakeholders. It will enable young creators to present their original work, interact with industry representatives and explore professional opportunities.

Since its inception in 2021, CMOT has developed into a platform connecting emerging creative professionals with the media and entertainment industry. Its alumni have gone on to work on international productions and receive recognition at platforms and festivals including Cannes, the Berlinale, the Toronto International Film Festival and the International Emmy Awards.

As India’s creative economy continues to grow, nurturing skilled and innovative professionals across filmmaking disciplines becomes increasingly important. By combining learning, practical collaboration and industry engagement, CMOT seeks to create pathways for emerging talent to translate creative ability into professional opportunities.

For the 100 participants arriving in Goa, IFFI will be more than a showcase of world cinema. It will be an opportunity to collaborate, learn and take their first steps towards shaping the future of Indian filmmaking.

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**PIB IFFI Team | Rajith Chandran/ Lekshmi Priya/ Nikhitha A. S. | IFFI 57 - 30**